

## Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current  
scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



## Home Demonstration Work - 1931

Grace E. Frysinger

LIBRARY OF THE  
OFFICE OF EXPERIMENT STATIONS

DEC 20 1932

EXPERIMENT STATION FILE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service.....C.W. WARBURTON *Director*

Office of Cooperative Extension Work.....C.B. SMITH *Chief*

Washington, D. C.

1877

(1877)

1877

HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK - 1931

LIBRARY OF THE  
OFFICE OF EXPERIMENT STATIONS

DEC 20 1932

EXPERIMENT STATION FILE

By Grace E. Frysinger  
Senior Home Economist, Central States

Contents

	Page		Page
Summary .....	1	Project results (continued)	
Organization .....	3	Child development and parent	
Program planning .....	4	education .....	12
Local leadership .....	5	Home-grounds improvement .....	12
Project results .....	5	Recreation .....	13
Foods and nutrition .....	5	Relief and community activities.	13
Clothing .....	6	Funds and staff .....	14
Health .....	7	Urban work .....	14
Home management .....	8	Negro work .....	15
Home furnishings and		Methods used .....	15
home crafts .....	9	Information .....	16
Home marketing .....	10	Outlook .....	16

SUMMARY

Home demonstration work serves the rural home in times of well-being and of distress. During 1931 home demonstration work proved of great service to rural families in meeting problems of economic depression, drought relief, and grasshopper infestation. It helped rural women in home demonstration groups to meet as effectively as their individual conditions permitted; the problem of adequately feeding and clothing their families when almost no cash was available, and provided a means for emergency relief for thousands of families in physical distress.

Members of the home demonstration staff cooperated in many ways with relief agencies in alleviating distress. They urged rural people to donate surplus food and clothing supplies and to cooperate with relief agencies in the placement of these supplies. They set up standards of food and clothing needs for the destitute, for the use of court poor-fund executives and relief agencies. They gave public demonstrations of low-cost foods and of clothing

**DISTRIBUTION:** A copy of this circular has been sent to each extension director, State and assistant State leader and district agent in home demonstration work, State agricultural-college library, and experiment-station library.



renovation. They trained volunteer workers to aid needy families with gardening, food preparation and preservation, and clothing construction problems. They organized and supervised clothing renovation and food preservation centers. They conducted food and clothing clinics, conducted garden contests, and directed the gardening activities of those receiving public aid. They supervised the volunteer services of home demonstration groups of rural women who gave assistance in relieving distress.

The year 1931 bears a notable record of home demonstration service in meeting economic and physical distress, in keeping up the courage of farm people, and in aiding them to carry on efficiently during this difficult period. Certain generally reported trends in home demonstration work during 1931 follow.

To maintain health at minimum cost, emphasis was given to the need of making the farm develop to its maximum as a self-sustaining unit. Home makers were urged to grow sufficient foods for the entire year and to can or store needed amounts and variety for winter use.

Complete utilization of available products and adequate care and repair of materials and equipment were stressed, and aid was given regarding intelligent purchase of such necessary commodities as staple groceries, household fabrics, and the like, as a means of conserving available cash. Handicrafts and marketing activities as guided by the home demonstration staff, made possible needed purchases for hundreds of families and became almost the only source of cash income on many farms. Home accounts were emphasized as a means of preventing waste and as a device to assure maximum satisfaction. The necessity for keeping up the morale of rural families through maintenance of good health, through provision of good reading material, and through adequate recreation was urged; and inexpensive forms of family and community recreation were suggested as a substitute for commercial entertainment which could no longer be afforded. Attractive appearance of the home and the home grounds without cash outlay also served to bring satisfaction. Community activities received increased attention. Hot school lunches, adequate packed lunches, pure drinking water, and sanitary toilet facilities in rural schools, community recreation, and improved appearance of rural communities, were outstanding phases of the community undertakings.

Much effort and progress were made in reaching more people during 1931. Circular letters and service letters were sent; special-interest group meetings, increased quality and quantity of news articles, more window exhibits, and more general meetings were reported. These means proved valuable in increasing the number of new home demonstration groups, in adding to the membership in previously organized groups, and in extending helpful suggestions to those who either could not come to meetings or who were not as yet sufficiently attracted to do so.

Many States reported meetings held at trade centers to which the public was invited where public demonstrations of clothing renovation, low-cost diets, and soap making were given by members of the home demonstration staff. Because of increased duties and lack of money for automobile or other means of travel,

meetings requiring less distance to go were scheduled by home demonstration agents. An increased number of counties reported meetings held by the local groups without attendance by the home demonstration agent, but for which she had given helpful guidance.

All States reported far more interest among rural women in analyzing conditions as a basis for program planning, as well as in evaluating results of home demonstration work. Increased numbers of members in local groups, increased willingness to assume responsibilities in the work, greater adoption of recommended practices, and sustained endeavor by rural women to retain public support for home demonstration work were reported by all States and indicate a wholesome attitude toward the work.

Public approval of the work was voiced by organizations, by individuals, and by the press, and the hearty cooperation and earnest support given to home demonstration work during the year by agencies recognized as concerned with sound progress and real economy, evidenced the service which home demonstration work is rendering to rural people.

#### ORGANIZATION

In spite of the economic depression, home demonstration agents generally reported an increase during 1931 in the number of groups organized to carry on home demonstration work, in membership per group, in percentage of completion of work undertaken, and in the number and effectiveness of rural women who served as volunteer leaders, officers, subject-matter leaders, news reporters, recreation chairmen, and home demonstrators.

There was a marked increase in the number of county-wide and state-wide committees of rural women who served as an advisory body to the home demonstration staff in determining upon desirable home demonstration programs and procedure to be used in carrying on home demonstration work.

Eighteen States reported that rural home makers served on county-wide executive committees or their equivalent. Alabama, Florida, Missouri, West Virginia, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, Virginia, Ohio, and Georgia, reported state-wide committees or councils representing home demonstration work; and Illinois, North Carolina, New York, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Texas have state-wide federations of local clubs. California, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Michigan, and Oregon reported that a state-wide council is to be formed early in 1932, and Kentucky reported that a state-wide committee had been appointed to prepare a suggestive constitution for a state-wide organization. Massachusetts reported that a State council is under consideration. Increased assistance was given in many States to the training of the officers, chairmen, and local leaders appointed by the groups.

During 1931, goals were set in several States as to the number of rural home makers or communities to be reached within a given period of years.



## PROGRAM PLANNING

In spite of the immediately pressing economic situation, rural women gave increased attention to program planning. A trend toward fewer projects and toward a recognition by local people of each project as a long-time study, was frequently indicated. "Live at home" was the basis of program planning in the majority of counties, and an endeavor was made to help home makers meet the present economic situation without undue lowering of the standard of living.

Increased interest and effective effort in obtaining factual data as a basis for program planning were repeatedly expressed. To this end use was made of surveys, questionnaires, community-wide and county-wide conferences of key people or of interested groups. County and intercounty conferences, where current economic facts were used as a basis for discussion of needed adjustments on farms and in homes, or to determine upon desired State and county extension programs were reported by 32 States.

Ohio reported that more effort is being expended in arousing intelligent understanding regarding the work by large numbers before the work is actually presented by the home demonstration agent or specialist. Kentucky reported, "There is constant effort to strengthen the program by obtaining larger and more effective local participation in building programs, in planning methods of procedure in carrying them out, in checking goals frequently, and in planning follow up."

New York made especial endeavor to meet the needs of the underprivileged. The State leader comments that many of the homes represented by this service are supported by public allowance. Massachusetts reported, "More emphasis has been put upon a continuous long-time program in each phase of the work, which has tended to bring the community together, not only for one project but for a study of the needs of the community along all lines of home making."

During 1931 some progress was made in meeting the needs of special-interest groups. Such phases as home accounts and child care and parent education were conducted on this basis in a number of States. For these projects people were brought together on a county-wide basis for instruction, and the results of their improved practices and other satisfactions derived have been used to indicate to others the need and value of the subject concerned.

State leaders expressed nation-wide experiences as follows: "As we are able to get women to express themselves about their needs, the tendency is to get away from the usual logical arrangement found in textbooks, as one problem may call for the assistance of several subject-matter specialists. This means more correlation." \* \* \* "As women develop, phases of our work which were unknown, uninteresting, or unimportant in their minds, come to have a place in the program. As a background of information to build up we can include much more difficult material and advanced study. Home makers who have had several years of food work are keenly interested in the relation of food to health. They want to know about the relation of food to acidosis, to definite digestive disturbances, to pellagra, pregnancy, anemia, etc. \* \* \* "There is a growing appreciation of the need for programs based on facts concerning the homes of the State as well as upon the interest of members."



The need of determining upon more effective procedure in choosing programs of work and of evaluating results obtained was voiced by many State leaders, as was the need of determining upon more effective means of arousing interest in the local program of work.

#### LOCAL LEADERSHIP

The development of capable local leadership continues to be the most valuable actual and potential result of home demonstration work. All 1931 reports emphasized the loyal support and the increased time and service which volunteer leaders gave to home demonstration work during this difficult time, in spite of numerous personal problems. In many counties these women led the endeavor which resulted in the retention of the extension appropriation against an indiscriminate appeal for tax reduction. A total of 128,073 different women served as volunteer local leaders in adult home demonstration work.

Though the knowledge of better living and of service to others is the most satisfying reward which these home makers receive, there is a trend toward giving to them simple yet tangible evidence of such accomplishment.

Recognition for achievement to home demonstration groups or to individual members of groups was reported by seven States. Alabama gives a "diploma" to members for completion of 1 year of food, 1 year of clothing, and 2 years of elected projects. This State also gives a certificate to local leaders "who have served faithfully." Rhode Island reported that groups meeting the requirements for a "standard home demonstration group" receive a charter. Michigan gives certificates to women in project work who meet the following standards: (1) Attend all meetings or make up work; (2) pass on instruction to at least two others, and (3) make the changes indicated in the project. South Carolina gives a pin on achievement day to those local leaders who attend all training meetings, keep reports and do creditable work. A certificate for completion of project work is given to members of home demonstration clubs. During last year 987 yearly certificates and 60 certificates for four years of work were given.

Nebraska gives a leadership pin to those women who serve as county chairmen each year. The pin is given at a special recognition ceremony during farm and home week at the college. The dean of the college of agriculture or the director of extension presents the pins, together with a charge of leadership. South Dakota gives certificates of merit to clubs achieving them. Maryland gives certificates for full-time attendance for four successive years at the women's short course. Missouri issues certificates each year to those home makers' clubs which have reached that "standard of excellence" which is annually determined by a state-wide committee of farm women.

#### PROJECT RESULTS

##### Foods and Nutrition.

The foods and nutrition project varied in content from means of obtaining even a modicum of food in the drought and grasshopper stricken areas, to

devising varied ways of using certain foods which were available in unusual volume in other areas.

In all the States meal planning, adequate low and maximum cost diets, gardening, food preservation to meet the estimated needs of the family, and use of home-grown products such as wheat, sorghum, pears, and peaches, were included. Special attention was given to the food needs of children at home and to the school lunch. A large amount of meat canning and curing was reported by many States as an economy measure, since the market price for livestock was so low.

Many States reported instruction in effective purchasing of staple groceries, and visits were made to stores to observe available brands and sizes, and other highly important factors.

Planters' conferences were sponsored by the home demonstration staff in Arkansas and Louisiana, to provide for the tenants adequate garden space, adequate time for canning in the winter, and to include pellagra-preventive foods in the usual rations allowed.

Year-round gardens were urged wherever climatic conditions permitted. Arkansas, Tennessee, and Oklahoma sponsored state-wide garden demonstrator's contests.

Texas and Arkansas celebrated "Pantry stores week." During this week a family's yearly supply of canned food was set up on shelves for exhibit in banks, stores, and other display places.

Many States stressed drying of fruits and vegetables as an economic measure. Demonstrations in planting of fall and winter gardens, canning, preserving, pickling, brining, drying, cheese making, and instructions for conditioning beef animals, hogs, and poultry for fall canning and curing were given.

Wisconsin prepared a state-fair exhibit entitled "A Canned Meal." Soup, meat, a vegetable, salad, and dessert which had been canned were used in this exhibit.

Florida reported a calendar orchard, Texas sponsored a "farm fruit plot" project urging each woman to have 8 peach and 4 plum trees, 4 grape and 25 berry vines.

Campaigns for the use of state-grown products were sponsored in Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Maryland, and New Jersey.

#### Clothing.

Remodeling of clothing; care, repair, and storage of clothing; home dry cleaning; carding and washing of wool for comforts and mattresses; laundering of wool and silk; construction of garments from flour, feed, and sugar sacks; coat-making demonstrations; sewing-machine clinics; wardrobe demonstrations; millinery construction and renovation; clothing storage; "use cotton" campaigns; and the economics of purchasing needed ready-made garments and household fabrics



were the outstanding phases of clothing work reported during the year. Virginia prepared an exhibit for the State fair on the use of cotton bags. North Carolina reported 51 cotton-dress shows and a state-wide cotton-dress contest.

Colorado, Indiana, and Iowa gave instructions in carding, washing, and utilizing home-grown wool for comforts and mattresses.

Indiana reported that an article entitled "White Elephants in Closets" was syndicated.

North Dakota reported a saving of \$5,451 as a result of the home dry cleaning of 7,146 garments. Nineteen counties in New York reported sewing-machine care.

A demonstration on "making a washable hat" won first place in the New Mexico State contest. California reported the reblocking of hats and that each county had a demonstration layette kit.

In Texas, 2,081 women kept clothing accounts, and 1,243 clothes closets were built and equipped. Indiana reported an exhibit "The Well-groomed Closet."

The New Jersey clothing committee, consisting of the clothing specialist and a group of home demonstration agents, prepared for the use of all agents valuable suggestions giving lists of garments that could be remodeled, what could be made from them, commercial patterns which would lend themselves to remodeling problems, and suggested materials that would combine satisfactorily.

New Jersey obtained a full-time clothing specialist during 1931.

### Health.

During times of economic stress the vitality of the family is frequently lowered due to lack of adequate health-protection measures. During 1931 maintenance of health as an economic measure was urged in all States. "Resist colds" campaigns were held in many States, including Connecticut, Colorado, Kansas, and Illinois.

Vermont, Alabama, Illinois, and Ohio reported outstanding work in immunization and vaccination. Alabama reported 7,977 women and girls who had complete health examinations and 5,687 who reported preventive measures including immunization against typhoid, diphtheria, and smallpox.

Ohio and Kansas reported foot health as an outstanding part of the year's work. A sickness-frequency survey was conducted in Mercer County, Ohio.

South Carolina reported that home sanitation was especially emphasized for one month during the year, during which time old buildings were removed, as were rubbish, and tin cans, and control methods for household pests were shown.



Alachua County, Fla., conducted a health and sanitation campaign. Weeds were cut, rubbish removed, ponds containing stagnant water were treated with oil, and a funeral for old tin cans was conducted.

The Illinois health specialist reported 694 persons using vaccines and antitoxins, two counties surveying rural wells, and one county completing its survey of rural wells. Illinois emphasized periodic health examinations, eradication of the common cold, and the prevention of accidents in the home. Fulton County, Ill., reported results of the third year of its 5-year dental program. Vermont and Arizona also reported better-teeth programs.

Kansas reported that 2,660 homes improved their bedside appliances, and that 1,096 homes were equipped with an emergency medicine case. Demonstrations were given in sterilization, use of disinfectants, and fumigation.

Nevada reported a standard for "gold-star" communities which is attained when 75 per cent of the children of a community are in the safe-health zone.

Vermont cooperated with the State board of health in holding 25 child-health clinics. Massachusetts held a "well-child" conference.

California reported the use of models of sanitary outside toilets which resulted in the installation of 71 such toilets. Mississippi reported 1,229 improved toilets.

#### Home Management.

Many requests for aid in analyzing existing conditions and in determining upon desired standards for the home were expressed by rural home makers. Mississippi reported that 1,589 women were assisted in analyzing home conditions with reference to a standard of living, and that 2,819 families were guided in making adjustments toward a more satisfactory standard of living. Kansas reported that 1,027 home makers received similar assistance, and Washington, 2,088.

The economic depression stimulated interest in home accounts during 1931 as a means of planning wise use of available cash and of guaranteeing maximum satisfaction in selection of items for purchase. Illinois reported 386 home accounts kept; Ohio, 1,170; Georgia, 1,952; and California, 450. Iowa reported 1,029 persons keeping home accounts and 1,005 budgets being followed. Nebraska reported 415 women spending money more wisely due to having kept home accounts. Kansas reported that over 600 home-account books were requested during 1931.

With lessened income, home makers found it necessary to carry on additional household activities, and requested aid in methods of conducting essential household tasks using the minimum of time and energy. California reported 177 women keeping household schedules, and that 396 women reported cooperation of families in household tasks. Iowa reported 2,205 persons keeping household schedules and 1,049 who planned regular tasks for children. Utah reported 379 home makers and Kansas 671 who followed self-set schedules. Iowa reported a score card to check on the efficiency of the worker, her mental attitude, well-being, and physical efficiency.

As rapidly as electric power lines are extended into rural areas, interest in the application of electricity in the home is expressed by rural women. In Michigan a truck equipped with electrical equipment for the farm and home was exhibited in 43 counties. Demonstrations were given in the selection, cost, and use of the equipment. Arizona reported holding electric repair schools. Virginia reported a "lighting your home" project. Arkansas County, Ark., reported holding an electrical school at which instruction was given in, (a) possibilities of rural electrification and its cost, (b) choice of electrical equipment in relation to income, (c) care and repair, (d) correct lighting, and (e) method demonstration in making lamp shades.

Alabama reported, "The business side of home making." Iowa reported, "The business of running a home." Wisconsin and Missouri reported, "Business law every woman should know." Texas county key bankers gave talks on "Fundamentals of business for the home maker" to home-account demonstrators.

Less emphasis was placed upon those phases of home management which involved cash outlay such as major equipment selection, but considerable attention was given to minor equipment, particularly of the kitchen. Minor repairs and such house remodelling as required time and effort with but little cash outlay were reported. Mississippi reported: "Because building material and labor have been so cheap this year, 345 homes have been remodeled and 194 built according to plans furnished by the extension service."

Additional requests for training in efficient methods of home laundering were reported in Kansas, Utah, Washington, Indiana, and Mississippi.

Indiana reported a project on beds and bedding, as a result of which 160 women renovated feathers; 90 bed-spring covers were made; 175 mattress covers were made or purchased; 297 women purchased longer sheets; 331 made attractive bedspreads; 573 adopted better bed-making methods; 410 bedroom accessories were made; 451 bedrooms were made more attractive; and 127 comforts were made from home-produced wool.

#### Home Furnishings and Home Crafts.

The need of beautifying the home without cash outlay was recognized during 1931 as a means of keeping up morale during the period of economic depression. Refinishing and reupholstering of furniture, making slip covers, elimination of useless or unnecessary articles, rug making, and curtains and draperies were the major activities reported. "Beautify with what you have," and "Shop in your attic," were the keynotes of the year's work. California used as its slogan, "Keeping up appearances."

In Arkansas a housing project was developed which included discussion of home ownership, principles in farmstead planning, relationship of better homes to better farming, electric service for farm homes, farm-home architecture, and the economics of home improvement. A state-wide meeting of this type was followed by 53 similar county meetings. South Carolina reported a project entitled "Architecture of the Home."

California reported that two counties held home-furnishing institutes. At the Monterey County Institute the topics discussed included financing the



home, building the home, landscaping the home, furnishing the home, home health, and child training.

Texas reported 11,000 pieces of furniture which were refinished. Washington reported that nine counties held "Better-homes tours," and that 1,245 individuals repaired or refinished furniture. Ohio conducted a "Livable living room" project in which 3,400 women participated, and an "Old furniture made new" project in which 4,411 women participated.

In Michigan the home-furnishings specialist aroused much interest among merchants in house furnishings by giving them a talk at an evening meeting to explain the objectives, content, and procedure of the project, which was to be undertaken.

Missouri reported that 4,345 rooms were improved, including 1,456 living rooms, 1,288 bedrooms, and 691 dining rooms. Missouri also reported 124 porches or outdoor living rooms made available. Mississippi conducted a "Porch-improvement" contest resulting in 1,461 improved porches. Florida emphasized outdoor living rooms or screened porches for those who did not have living rooms in their homes.

South Carolina reported demonstrations on the bleaching of burlap and exhibits of articles made from it.

West Virginia supervised a tourist-home service; Vermont sent tourist-home letters to 800 homes. Massachusetts gave aid to Cape Cod home makers who take summer boarders, and to tea-room managers. New Hampshire held conferences with 200 roadside operators and published the results in a pamphlet.

Home crafts served a threefold purpose. They provided utility and beauty in the home; they were a source of income; and they gave satisfaction as an opportunity for constructing artistic articles and for working with beautiful materials and colors. Agents encouraged standardization of articles, and the women are recognizing the value of these requirements.

Quilt and rug making, baskets, tooled leather articles, fancy packs of unusual fruits and vegetables, Christmas greens, specialties of different localities, were included among these craft endeavors. Hooked and braided rugs made of wool, cotton, or gunny sackling served to beautify homes and to add comfort. They also served as sources of income.

Maine reported a Christmas-gift project, leaflet, and exhibit. Honey-suckle vine and pine-needle baskets were made under the supervision of southern home demonstration agents. Rugs, coverlets, and other woven articles were also reported. Michigan helped rural home makers of the Upper Peninsula to prepare balsam pillows, native greens, and pine cones for Christmas gifts.

#### Home Marketing.

Marketing of home products continued as an essential part of home demonstration work in assisting rural home makers whose farm incomes are too low



to obtain the necessities for desired standards of living. Individual and group marketing activities, market grading and packing demonstrations, and planting for marketing purposes as well as for family needs, were reported by many States.

Alabama reported that the Gadsden Curb Market served as "A maker of money and a center of social service."

Mississippi held marketing schools and special grading and packing demonstrations. Mississippi reported standardization of the following products: Tomatoes, soup mixture, beans, peach marmalade, fig preserves, fruit cake, peach pie, canned chicken, butter, citrus marmalade, and pine-needle products. Texas reported that 552 women reported profitable sales of standardized products. Montana reported markets in seven counties.

Arkansas reported 22 roadside market-garden demonstrations in 20 counties.

Georgia reported that 19 approved market gardens were conducted with the definite aim of marketing the products successfully so as to supplement the income.

South Carolina reported that marketing projects were conducted in 46 counties, and assisted 21,441 people to sell a total of \$312,000 worth of surplus farm, garden, orchard, poultry, pork, and other home products.

North Carolina reported a total of 35 markets, which did a business of \$305,388 in 1931. The home demonstration leader listed the economic, social, and educational values of the marketing work in that State.

Nine counties in Illinois conducted markets with sales amounting to \$94,940. Maine reported its first marketing venture under home demonstration leadership. The women in Rutland County, Vt., sold Christmas articles, 130 women participating in the endeavor. Three markets were established in South Dakota. Michigan added a home-marketing specialist during 1931, and the Michigan Home-Products Marketing Association was formed. Standardization of products was urged and only applicants whose articles met the test were eligible to membership.

Instruction in efficient household purchasing in which all home-economics specialists participated on a coordinately responsible basis was reported by several States. California reported 4,062 families in 24 counties doing better buying as a result of the instruction. Utah reported 1,215 women, Kansas 1,005, and Washington 585, who followed the recommended buying methods for the home. Iowa reported 16,424 women who improved their buying habits.

Rhode Island reported a study of chain-store v. local-store prices as a part of its purchasing study of a week's market order.

Indiana and North Carolina reported that study is being made of the type and quality of consumer purchases as well as of purchasing habits.

### Child Development and Parent Education.

Twenty-eight States reported the child development and parent-education project.

Ten States had full-time specialists in this field. California appointed a full-time specialist during the year. Minnesota indicated that this project has reached many home makers not previously participating in home demonstration work. In all States, directed discussion was the basic teaching method employed. In Michigan 1,427 fathers cooperated during 1931. Minnesota made especial effort to reach the young mothers of young children.

Michigan, New Jersey, and New York reported exhibits of outdoor play materials. Perry County, Ohio, presented a pageant based on the child's "bill of rights." A permanent exhibit on child development was arranged in several Oklahoma home demonstration agents' offices. Radio talks were reported by Massachusetts, and New Jersey reported radio and syndicated news services which reached 300,000 readers. Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and New York reported training of local leaders.

Simple physical changes in the home to meet the needs of children; improved physical habits of children; better play materials; a definite and constructive plan for parents of dealing with children through understanding as to their needs and capacities; and increased public interest and understanding in regard to child development and parent education, were the outstanding results of this project during 1931.

### Home-Grounds Improvement.

Added interest in beautification of farm-home grounds was reported by 48 States and the Territory of Hawaii. Very little money was spent in this endeavor; local woods, cuttings from gardens of friends, and plant exchanges among home demonstration club members, served as the major sources of material for beautification.

Connecticut added a half-time specialist in this field.

Maryland reported a 3-year flower-growing project. California reported a 4-year farm home-ground improvement plan. In that State miniature sets of farm buildings and planting scheme were used. Arkansas reported a 5-year community-landscape contest in which 40 communities participated.

Missouri reported 4,302 homes making home-grounds improvement. Exhibits were used to illustrate form, arrangement, and planting. Playlets, pantomimes, and mock trials were used to call attention to needed improvements.

Florida reported plant and flower exchanges and the adoption of some flower by various counties. Each member throughout the county concerned was expected to plant that flower. Delaware reported that 10,000 shrubs and plants exchanged hands during the year. Tennessee encouraged the planting of walnuts.



In South Carolina 186 school or other community grounds were improved by home demonstration clubs, and North Carolina reported 3,056 homes and communities landscaped.

In Wyoming, tire covers, auto stickers, and letterhead legends were used to emphasize the slogan "Its not a home until it's planted." Wisconsin reported that the appearance of 6,500 homes had been improved through planting trees and shrubs.

### Recreation.

Farm women's camps, picnics, county-wide play days, pageants, choruses, orchestras, and training meetings for volunteer recreational and song leaders were reported.

Many States arranged for 1 to 4-day training institutes for recreational leaders. The technical training at most of these meetings was given by members of the staff of the Children's Bureau or of the Playground and Recreation Association of America.

New York and Illinois sponsored playlet contests. South Dakota issued a music leaflet. Mississippi reported a state-wide music appreciation contest. Massachusetts added a recreation specialist who stressed the need of family recreation in the home, and published suggestions for family recreation in the home, and published suggestions for family recreation for each month of the year. Musical Moments with Foreign Mothers, a review of songs and instrumental music of various nations, county-wide and state-wide choruses, county-wide dramatic tournaments, music memory contests were reported by Iowa. Wyoming reported a new project called, "A comfortable and convenient reading center in every Wyoming home." Wyoming provided a camp library at some of the farm women's camps. The Utah home-reading project included recommendations of books for the nursery age, for the adolescent, and for the adult. Goals were set in each county. Iowa emphasized appropriate books for children.

### RELIEF AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Through home demonstration work rural women have been led into group thinking and group endeavor, in which they have found additional satisfactions and developed unrealized capacities.

In 1931, throughout the Nation, women in home demonstration groups aided needy rural and urban people alike during this period of economic distress. They gave food supplies and helped to make and remodel clothes. They demonstrated methods of canning and of clothing renovation; distributed supplies to the needy, and helped to locate needy families. They canned the necessary food supplies for hot lunches in rural schools, and were instrumental in obtaining sanitary toilet facilities and in having the water supply tested to assure its purity in these schools. They stimulated the serving of better meals at community gatherings. They beautified the school and church grounds and public highways. They provided rural community buildings where family groups gathered for informal social activities. They set up interesting educational exhibits regarding the home for store windows and at fairs, so that observers might improve their homes.



Rural libraries and county health units were sponsored by these women. Plays and pageants in which members of their families and neighbors participated were presented as a means of social satisfaction and to overcome thoughts of depression because of lowered income.

Educational scholarships were sponsored by many States. New York and Michigan reported such scholarships established for the first time. Kentucky reported a state-wide slogan "Every home demonstration club doing something for the community."

#### FUNDS AND STAFF

The expenditures for home demonstration work during 1930-31 were \$5,543,065.24. This represented an increase of \$300,166.37 over 1929-30. During 1931 the Illinois State Federation of Home Bureaus obtained an additional State biennial appropriation of \$16,000 to add to the \$50,000 already appropriated to apply on the salaries of county home demonstration agents.

On December 31, 1931, there were 1,404 white home demonstration workers, State and county, and 134 negro home demonstration workers - the same total number for each group as on December 31, 1930.

Eight States reported new appropriations for county home demonstration work and four States made additions to the State specialist staff.

In spite of the difficult situation confronting them, State and county members of the home demonstration staff served rural home makers unfailingly and without consideration as to time and energy demands made upon them.

Interest in professional improvement was evidenced in all States. Alabama and Arkansas reported large increases in the percentage of home demonstration agents with college degrees. Colorado reported use of a rating scale for home demonstration agents and specialists. In Missouri and in Kansas the home demonstration agents set up self-established goals of efficiency against which to check their own satisfaction as to accomplishment achieved, and New York reported that State retirement and sabbatic leave privileges have served to stabilize the home demonstration profession, the turnover in home demonstration agents being reduced from 28 per cent in 1923 to 16 per cent in 1931.

The year brought additional evidence of desire to coordinate the subject-matter services of the several specialists in home economics, and of home economics with agricultural specialists to more adequately promote the effectiveness of rural family living.

#### Urban Work.

Home demonstration work was conducted in seven cities during 1931. The major aid given to city home makers included instruction in canning, economical purchase of commodities for the home, planning inexpensive meals, and renovation of clothing and equipment.

General demonstration meetings, office and telephone consultation service, local-leader instruction, and an extensive and valuable publicity

service via radio, the press, and exhibits were the outstanding means used to present needed information. Several of the home demonstration agents published monthly news bulletins.

Minimum-cost diets were prepared for use by relief agencies, canning centers, and clothing clinics where renovation and remodelling were taught, were outstanding among the relief activities.

#### Negro Work.

Home demonstration work with negroes was conducted in 147 counties in 13 States by negro home demonstration agents working under the supervision of the white agents of the county.

Nutrition was stressed in all States and much pellagra preventive and curative work was undertaken. A typical program for negroes is quoted from Mississippi: (1) Have two gardens instead of one where possible, or enlarge space formerly used; (2) grow more fruit and berries; (3) produce more poultry - at least 12 fowls for every home; (4) a good grade cow with comfortable quarters, for every home; (5) a good brood sow for every home; (6) can for winter what you do not eat in summer; and (7) a sewing machine in every home.

The need of sanitation and simple health rules were urged in all States.

Two 4-week interstate schools for training all negro members of the extension service were held during 1931 at the State colleges for negroes in Virginia and Arkansas.

#### METHODS USED

Although method and result demonstrations continue as the basic teaching methods used, during 1931 the home demonstration staff increased the number of devices used to determine needs, to arouse interest, to teach improved home making, and to evaluate results obtained.

Ohio reported: "We are endeavoring to use educational devices other than meetings." Montana reported: "We are using more group discussion and less lecture method."

Informal lectures, organized discussion, multiple-choice questions, pictures, question-and-answer blanks, exhibits, charts, contests, case studies, and problem studies were used. Study outlines, clinics, general meetings open to the public, radio, news articles, and circular letters, were also used to inform the public as to desired practices and the nature and results of home demonstration work. Organized discussion is being increasingly used as a basis for home demonstration teaching.

Iowa and Nebraska used true-false tests and multiple-choice checks as means of arousing discussion and to check knowledge accurately.

Much effort and progress was made in reaching more people during 1931. Membership campaigns, monthly service letters, increased quality and quantity of news articles, more general meetings were reported.



Missouri reported the effectiveness of loan envelopes and of newsletters to home demonstration group presidents. Circular letters to an inclusive mailing list three times a year were reported by all home demonstration agents in Minnesota, Michigan, and Missouri. In 18 counties in Ohio, detailed plans of procedure were set up as to steps in carrying out the project with goals to be accomplished and designated responsibility.

Wyoming reported the use of "intelligence tests" at camps and that surveys and true-false tests were also used. How Wise Are Wyoming Mothers? was the caption of a test on home-making philosophy. Massachusetts reported that mothers' service letters, in the preparation of which all specialists cooperated, were sent to a list of mothers who do not attend meetings. The list was furnished by county home demonstration agents.

Achievement days and farm-women's short courses continue to be increasingly effective means of arousing interest in home demonstration activities and in informing the public as to the aims and results of home demonstration work. During 1931, Missouri, Kansas, and Wyoming set up standards for achievement days as a means of increasing their effectiveness.

#### INFORMATION

More organized planning to extend information, through news articles, exhibits, radio, and otherwise, regarding home demonstration activities and results was reported as a forward step during 1931. New York reported one full-time editor and some part-time editorial service specifically for home-economics work. County-wide training meetings for news chairmen, and regular issuance of articles by the State and county home demonstration staffs, were reported by many States. The Texas extension editors trained news chairmen from local groups.

The Minnesota extension editor prepared a pamphlet, News Writing for Home Demonstration Reporters, for use by news writers in home demonstration agent counties to whom the extension editor gave all-day training in news writing for one day.

Missouri, Virginia, and Wyoming conducted publicity contests for home demonstration agents. Nine States reported radio programs which were used regularly to disseminate information which helped in meeting the economic situation, and to extend knowledge regarding home demonstration work in general.

Forty-two States reported the use of the radio during 1931. Nebraska continued its use of a full-time worker for home demonstration radio service, and New York conducted a 6-months radio program.

#### OUTLOOK

During 1931, home demonstration work served the individual, the family, and the community; it improved the efficiency of rural women at necessary tasks; it provided an incentive to altruistic service for the community and for those in need; it stimulated recognition of the security and sure satisfactions of life on the farm; it stimulated analysis of fundamental values in



life, and at the same time was practically purposeful in increasing the income and reducing living expenses to the minimum; and it helped to stabilize the faith and courage of rural women who through word, act, and deed have evidenced their need and desire for home demonstration work and the rich rewards which it brings into their lives.

With the development of clearer perspective which often is experienced in a time of crisis, the home demonstration staff sensed more clearly the essential needs of the rural home maker, and the methods by which they might most effectively and readily serve her. Thus they proved to rural women, and to the public, that science serves in times of adversity as well as in times of success.

The outlook for home demonstration work is encouraging. As rural women and the press continue to emphasize the helpful service rendered by home demonstration agents, indications are that additional numbers of rural women will ask for help of home demonstration agents during 1932.

It is probable that a few counties will temporarily withhold appropriations due to indiscriminate economy appeals. True economies and increased service will be effected by the staff wherever possible, and effort will be continued to help rural people keep up their morale and to meet the economic situation by spending less money without lowering the standards of life.

Typical of the statements of home demonstration leaders regarding the outlook is the following one from Kansas:

"The program will of necessity take an economic trend, for it must be capable of aiding farm families in -

"Producing sufficient food for their own use.  
A better distribution of food over the year.  
A wise expenditure of family finances.  
Upkeep and care of clothing for all members of the family.  
Rearrangement and care of house furnishings to insure to farm families a greater enjoyment of their homes.  
All activities of the home maker so managed that she spends most wisely of her time and energy."







